

The Hillside Messenger

A Message from the Rector: Christ, The Bread of Life

In this article I look at the meaning of one of the "I am" sayings of the Lord Jesus Christ in the *Gospel according to St. John*: "I am the bread of life: he that cometh to Me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst" (*St. John 6:35*, KJV). To understand this saying and to appreciate its meaning, we must consider its context.

This saying forms part of a discourse to the Jews which follows Jesus' miracles of the feeding of the five thousand and walking on the water of the Sea of Galilee. The Jews had looked for Jesus on the other side of the lake, but failing to find Him, they crossed the lake by ship, and found Him at Capernaum (*St. John 6:24*). Jesus points out that they are looking for Him not be-

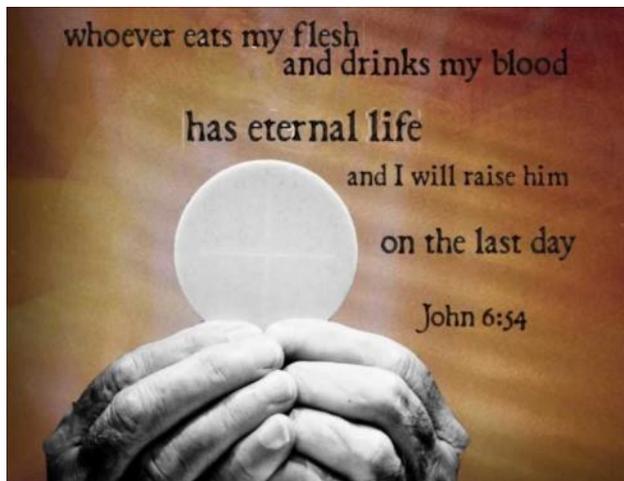
cause they had seen Him do miracles, but because He had fed the crowds with a few loaves of bread. He begins the discourse by telling them not to labor for transient food, but for food that endures to eternal life, food which only He, the Son of Man, can give (*St. John 6:27*), since He

paring two things: working for food as we know it and working for eternal food. When He says, "Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life," He is really telling the people that they must be more concerned to work for eternal food than for ordinary food.

This naturally leads His listeners to ask the question about what kind of work they should be doing to do the works of God (*St. John 6:28*) and so have this food which endures to eternal life. The kind of work

God requires is for people to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ whom He has sent (*St. John 6:29*). Their reply questions the Lord about what sign He will shew them so that they may believe in Him. They recall how God fed their forefathers with

(Continues on page 2)



bears God the Father's authority. On the face of it, it seems odd that the Lord would command the people not to work for the food that we all ordinarily need to sustain physical life. The Lord was not relieving His followers of the need to work for a living (*II Thessalonians 3:10*), but He was com-

Inside this Issue:

Annual Meeting Moved to March 5th	4
Our Chapel Family Prayer List	5
Parish Postings	6
Upcoming Events	6

Christ, The Bread of Life

(Continued from page 1)
manna in the desert. The manna was God's gift to sustain the Israelites throughout their wilderness wanderings.

The Lord's reply no doubt surprises them, not in the sense of casting doubt on the historical fact that Israel was fed with manna in the desert, but by the truth of God as the source of the "true bread from heaven" (*St. John 6:32*, KJV). In this way, the Lord shows both that Moses was not the source of the manna, and that the manna itself is not the true bread. He implies that the manna was a sign pointing forward to Himself, the true bread of heaven. The true bread of heaven comes down from heaven and gives life to the world (*St. John 6:33*). When His listeners request Him to give them this bread always, Jesus tells them how they may always receive it— by coming to Him and believing in Him (*St. John 6:35*).

Since we know that manna was God's provision for Israel in the desert until they came into the Promised Land where they began to eat the crops and fruits of the land (*Joshua 5:12*), we can see that Jesus Christ sustains with His life for the course of their journey in this world all who believe in Him, until they are fully united with Him in the Promised Land of God's eternal kingdom.

The bread and the wine of Holy Communion are the visible signs of Christ the true bread of heaven sustaining us just as God fed the Israelites in their wilderness journey with the manna that lay on the ground every morning. The Sacrament of Holy Communion must often be received, since it is a means of God's grace by which our union and fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ and with one another are always strengthened and refreshed. This strengthening and refreshing is the fruit of our faith in Christ. John Calvin wrote the following about faith in this passage:

For faith does not only look at Christ only as at a distance, but embraces Him, that He may become ours and may dwell in us. It causes us to be incorporated with Him to have life in Him, and, in short, to become one with Him (*St. John 17:21*).

Commentary on the Gospel according to St. John, 6:35

If we are not able to receive Holy Communion at church frequently, we must focus on our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ expressed in spiritually communing with Him on a daily basis in prayer, praise, adora-

tion, reading and studying His word, and doing His will. This could be expressed also in the phrase "abiding in Christ"² that is, remaining in union with Him (see *St. John 15*).

As I come to the end of this article, I must emphasize how important it is to come continually to Christ in faith and to believe in Him. He declares, "I am the bread of life: he that cometh to Me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst." Spiritual hunger and thirst are satisfied by the Lord Jesus Christ alone. He is the Bread of Life and the Giver of the Water of Life, the Holy Spirit. There is no other source of eternal life except the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the Gospel we proclaim. Social media and news media are concerned with the news of the day, what people are doing and saying and how they appear to others. Staying connected to what's happening is so important to so many people, even if the news and opinions of today are here today and gone tomorrow, being replaced by the newest trends, news, and opinions. If we try to stay connected to all these, it is like being blown around in circles by conflicting winds or tossed on the waves of a stormy sea.

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Christ, The Bread of Life

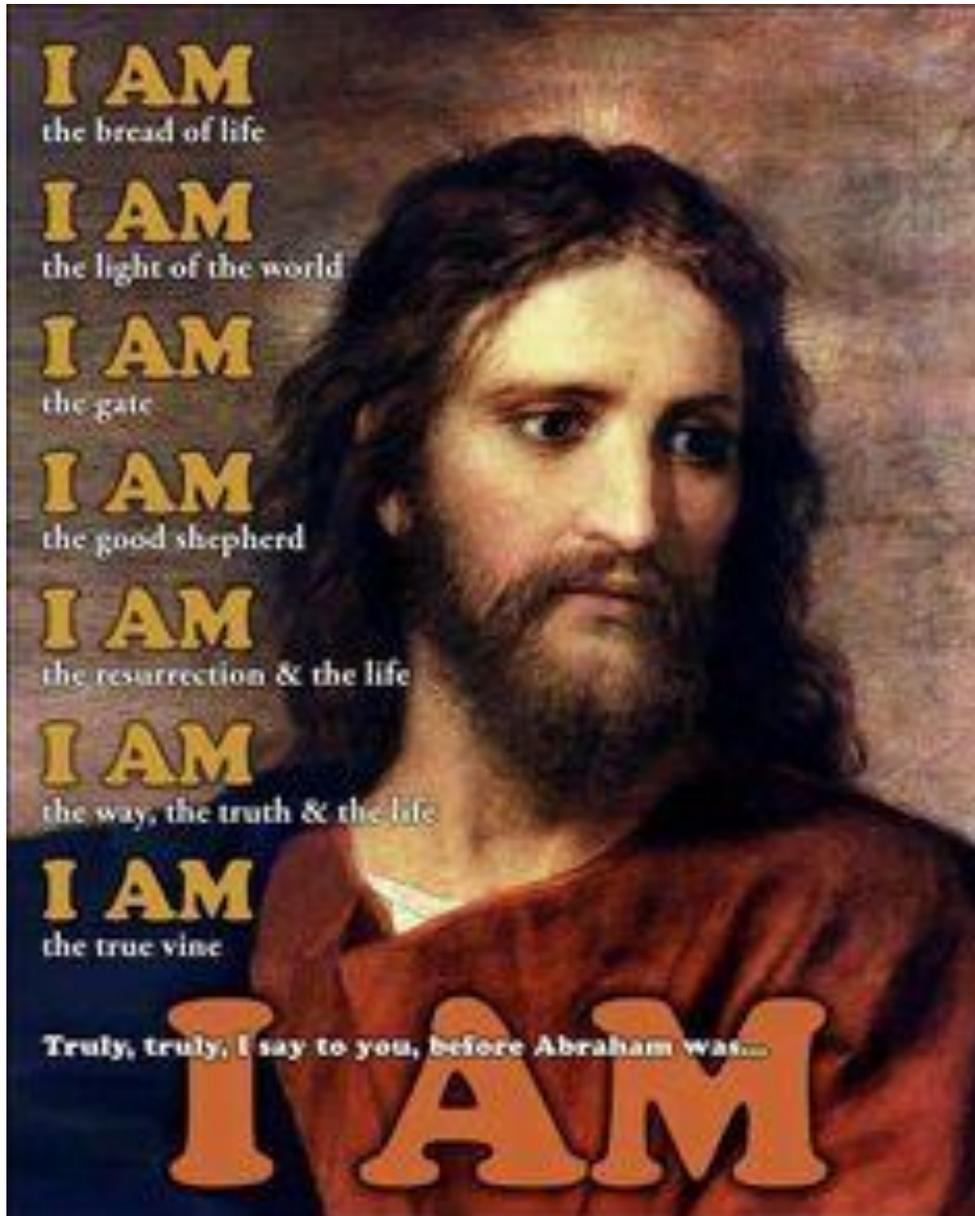
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Christ is the Bread of Life in whose presence we have come to rest through our repentance

from sin and our faith in Him, and as we partake of Him, we are filled with His presence, His love,

joy, and peace, and the fruit of His Spirit.

– *The Reverend Christopher Parrish*



Annual Meeting Moved to March 5th

Annual Parish Meeting

**Sunday,
March 5, 2017**

immediately following the 10:00 AM
Holy Communion service



The Annual Parish Meeting is an important meeting of the entire parish wherein members review and vote on the proposed budget for the coming year, elect Vestry members, and hear reports from the Rector and officers of the Vestry.

Please note that, although all are welcome and encouraged to attend, only parish members in good standing may cast votes. If you are uncertain of your membership status, please check with the Reverend Christopher Parrish. If you are unable to attend this meeting, please assign your proxy to a member in good standing by using the form which has been mailed to you.

Our Chapel Family Prayer List

O God, the Creator and Preserver of all mankind, we humbly beseech Thee for all sorts and conditions of men; that Thou wouldest be pleased to make Thy ways known unto them, Thy saving health unto all nations. More especially we pray for Thy holy Church universal; that it may be so guided and governed by Thy good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Finally, we commend to Thy fatherly goodness:

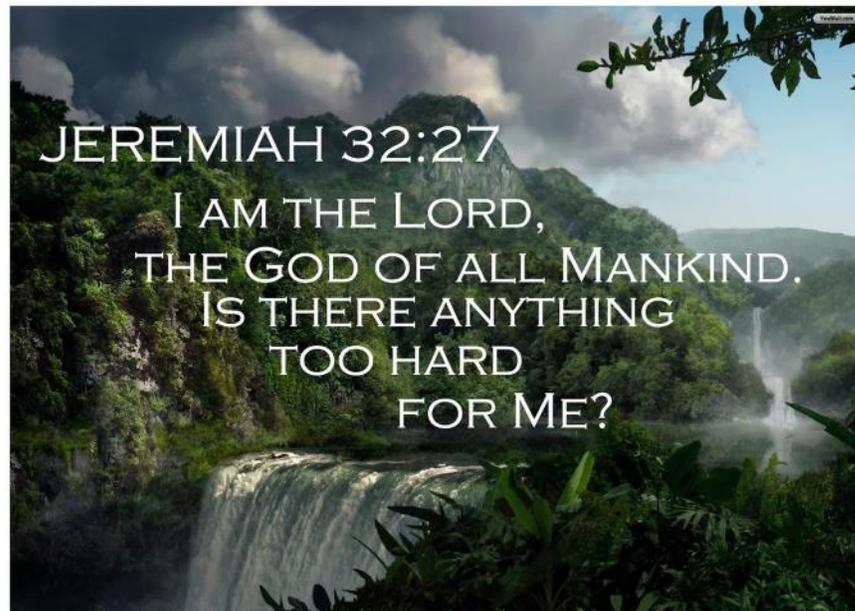
Archbishop Beach;
Bishop Ilgenfritz;
Canon Penfield,
our Vicar-General;
Father Parrish;
Deacon Vogel; and
Deacon Bracken;

as well as all those who are any ways afflicted, or distressed, in mind, body, or estate; especially those for whom our prayers are desired:

the soldiers, sailors,
marines, airmen,
police officers,
firefighters, and pilots
who protect us every day;
our persecuted Christian
brothers and sisters
throughout the world;
Estelle Wilson;
Julia McNeely;
Joya de Rossett;

Louise Xavier;
Sharon De Souza;
Debbie;
Scott;
Brittany;
Don Cottam;
Joy Ware;
Tanya Theiler;
Christian McKagan
and his parents;
Lois Martins;
Dale Quinn;

Father Bob Jordan;
Father Tim and Anna
Doubblestein;
Deacon Chuck and Cay
Arturo
in their bereavement;
Father Terry Troyer
and his family
in their bereavement;
and for all those
who are in our hearts,
that it may please Thee to
comfort and relieve them,
according to their several



Lisa;
Ben;
Marion;
Max;
Samar and her family;
Bishop Richard Boyce;
Dorian;
Kate Ward;
Kendra Pack;
Ernst Hernandez;
Helen Vanderberg;
Ray and Elodia Boreham;

necessities; giving them
patience under their suf-
ferings, and a happy issue
out of all their afflictions.
And this we beg for Jesus
Christ's sake. Amen.

Please note: This prayer
list was current as of
February 3rd. Please
contact Father Parrish
to make corrections

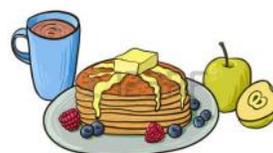
Parish Postings

Joanna's Circle, a women's group which meets monthly for prayer, fellowship, and mutual support in living the Christian life, will meet on **Saturday, February 18th at 9:30 AM** (location to be announced). Please contact Julia McNeely if you have any questions.



Our annual Pancake Luncheon will occur on **Sunday, February 26th**, following Holy Communion at 10:00 AM (there

will be no noon service this fourth Sunday). Our brothers and sisters from Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church will join us. Please use the sign-up sheet in McNeely Hall to indicate how you will help with this event, whether it be by helping to set up, bringing food and/or beverages, cooking, or assisting with clean-up. Thank you!



Ash Wednesday will be observed with A Penitential Office and Imposition of Ashes on **March 1st at 7:00 PM**.



Please note that the Annual Parish Meeting has been rescheduled for **Sunday, March 5th**, following Holy Communion at 10:00 AM. All are welcome! (Please see additional information on page 4.)



Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 5th

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
Emergency Food Pantry Collection Day

Bible Study: Joel
9:15 AM

Holy Communion with Healing Service
10:00 AM

Sunday, February 12th

Septuagesima

Bible Study: Joel
9:15 AM

Office of Daily Morning Prayer
10:00 AM

Holy Communion
noon

(Continues on page 7)

Upcoming Events

(Continued from page 6)

Saturday, February 18th

Joanna's Circle

9:30 AM

Sunday, February 19th

Sexagesima

Bible Study: I St. Peter

9:15 AM

Holy Communion

10:00 AM

Sunday, February 26th

Quinquagesima

Bible Study: I St. Peter

9:15 AM

Holy Communion

10:00 AM

Pancake Luncheon
following the worship service

Wednesday, March 1st

Ash Wednesday

A Penitential Office with Imposition of Ashes

7:00 PM

Sunday, March 5th

The First Sunday in Lent

Emergency Food Pantry Collection Day

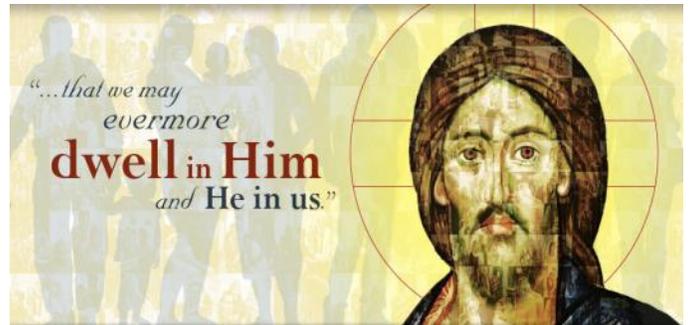
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9:15 AM

Holy Communion with Healing Service

10:00 AM

Annual Parish Meeting
following the worship service





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A PUBLICATION OF
ST. LUKE'S CHAPEL IN THE HILLS
ANGLICAN CHURCH

A PARISH OF
THE CONVOCATION OF THE WEST,
PART OF THE
MISSIONARY DIOCESE OF
ALL SAINTS IN
THE ANGLICAN CHURCH
IN NORTH AMERICA

26140 Duval Way
Los Altos Hills, California
94022-4413

Office phone:
650-941-6524

Rector's cellular:
669-245-9701

E-mail:
ChristopherParrish7@gmail.com

Website:
www.StLukesChapel.church

«AddressBlock»

Worship Schedule

St.

Luke's Chapel in the Hills is a traditional Anglican parish which uses the 1928 edition *Book of Common Prayer*. We invite you to join us for worship soon!

*"A place
where the Bible is taught."*



*Biblical in teaching.
Liturgical in worship.
Loving in practice.*

First Sunday of each month

Holy Communion with Healing Service
10:00 AM

Second and fourth Sundays each month

Office of Daily Morning Prayer
10:00 AM

Said Holy Communion
noon

Please note that both services on Feast Days occurring on these Sundays will be Holy Communion.

Third and fifth Sunday each month and Feast Days

Holy Communion
10:00 AM